

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for conducting the personal interview with Applicant's representative on October 14, 2004. In the interview Applicant's representative: (1) inquired as to the status of claims 27, 29, 31, 33 and 35, which were indicated as rejected in the September 10, 2004 Office Action but which are dependent from allowed claim 1; and (2) discussed with the Examiner the rejections of independent claims 8 and 15 in view of *Gamst* (US 4,134,547).

Regarding topic (1), the Examiner confirmed that claims 27, 29, 31, 33 and 35 are allowed. Regarding topic (2), the Examiner agreed that *Gamst* failed to specifically disclose some portions of the independent claims 8 and 15, but did not agree to allow claims 8 and 15 without further search.

Status of the Application

Claims 1-21 and 27-39 are all the claims pending in the Application, as claims 40 and 41 are hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 8, 10, 13-17, 20, 21, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 39 stand rejected.¹

¹ Claims 27, 29, 31, 33 and 35 were indicated as being allowed in the October 14, 2004 personal interview.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-7, 18, 19, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35 and 37 are allowed, and that claims 9, 11, 12, 40 and 41 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

Allowable dependent claims 9, 11 and 12 are hereby rewritten in independent form, and are therefore believed to be immediately allowable.

Independent claim 8 is rewritten to include the features of allowable claim 40. Thus, independent claim 8 is believed to be immediately allowable.

Independent claim 15 is rewritten to include the features of allowable dependent claim 41. Thus, independent claim 15 is believed to be immediately allowable.

Claim Rejections

The rejections of claims 8, 10, 13-17, 20, 21, 38 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Gamst* (US 4,134,547; hereinafter “*Gamst*”), and claims 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Gamst* are believed to be moot in view of the amendments herein.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-21 and 27-39 are allowable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the application now is in condition for allowance with all of the claims 1-21 and 27-39.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No.: 09/894,008

Attorney Docket # Q65241

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, except for the Issue Fee, to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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